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SUBJECT: STEPHEN HARPER'S CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

11. (SBU) As Santa Claus prepares to leave his North Pole (Canada) base to deliver presents around the world (with NORAD dutifully tracking his progress), Prime Minister Stephen Harper may be offering up his own wistful wish list for Christmas 2008, perhaps as follows:

- President Obama's first phone call after the inauguration is to PM Harper, with an invitation to visit the White House ASAP to learn from Harper's insights and experience;
- the North American recession turns out to have been a "Dallas"-like dream sequence, and we all wake up to healthy, expanding economies with solvent banks (based on the Canadian regulatory model) and full employment;
- the 2009 Canadian budget passes the House of Commons unanimously;
- Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams recants his Venezuelan/Che Guevara economic theories and gives free rights to Newfie water to AbitibiBowater in perpetuity, leading Maude Barlow to emigrate to Zimbabwe;
- Quebec voters come to their senses, abandon the Bloc Quebecois, and vote en masse for the Conservatives in the next election, creating a stable Conservative majority in the House of Commons;
- the three opposition parties in Parliament drop all objections to an elected Senate, which all provinces then rush to endorse as well;
- the Liberal Party national convention delegates in May 2009 unanimously pick discredited ex-leader Stephane Dion as the party's new permanent "Leader-for-Life;"
- scientists discover that Canada's oil sands have a positive effect on climate change and can be efficiently extracted even at a world oil price of \$10 per barrel;
- Russia abandons all claims to the Arctic and donates its nuclear submarine that remains wedged between two ice floes to the Canadian Navy, thereby doubling Canada's blue-water capabilities;
- millions of newly rich Chinese consumers develop a sudden craze for Canadian-made SUVs and trucks;
- after successfully democratic Afghan elections in 2009, the Taliban and al-Qaeda give up and "go home," peace and stability emerge throughout Afghanistan, and the Canadian Forces and other ISAF troops depart in victory;
- Jon Stewart and "The Daily Show" stop making fun of Canada and Canadian politics.

12. (U) Best wishes for happy holidays and a joyous 2009 -- and may your own wishlists have better chances of success!

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